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TRUCK TALK EXPRESS

A BI-MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE FOR WMCA MEMBERS

TRANSPORTATION BILLS ADVANCE IN LEGISLATURE

The Senate Transportation and Elections committee has recommended passage of the following bills on 5-0 votes.

[SB-189](#). Truck Length (Lazich) Eliminates DOT permit required for certain vehicles carrying poles, pipe, girders and similar materials on highways.

[SB-195](#). Truck Weight (Lazich) Extends to December 31 seasonal weight limits for vehicles transporting agricultural crops.

BILL WOULD PROVIDE PROTECTION HIRING CONVICTED FELONS

[Assembly Bill 286](#), (and its Senate companion bill, SB 207), would permit employers to consider a person's felony conviction record when deciding to hire or terminate the person. The WMCA supports this legislation.

Currently, Wisconsin is one of only four states that include convicted felons as a "protected class" under the definition of employment discrimination. Proponents of the legislation argue that Wisconsin's law exposes employers to unnecessary litigation threats from felons who are either passed over for a job or terminated.

Moreover, current Wisconsin law permits compensatory and punitive damages in employment discrimination cases, and employers face greater litigation costs should they decide not to hire a convicted felon or terminate an employee who has a felony conviction record.

THIRD QUARTER DRIVERS OF THE MONTH ANNOUNCED

The following drivers have been named Driver of the Month for the third quarter of 2011:

July – Peter Hansen, Marten Transport – Peter Hansen has been a professional truck driver with Marten Transport Ltd, Mondovi, for over 20 years. During his career, he has never had a crash and only one violation while driving over 2.6 million miles. Peter was a member of the 2007 Wisconsin Road Team. He is a current member of the WMCA President's Safe Driver Club and he is a Trucker Buddy. Pete lives in Bristol with his wife Rose.

August – Shane Ashton, Hribar Trucking – Shane Ashton has been a professional truck driver for 12 years with only one crash. He has worked the last 7 years for Hribar Trucking, Caledonia. Since working for Hribar, Shane has been a city driver logging over 450,000 miles. Shane takes pride in his relationships with peers, customers, supervisors and shop personnel. He and his wife, Catola, live in Milwaukee.

September – Bruce Draugel, Skinner Transfer – Bruce Draugel has been a city and road driver during his 32 year career as a professional truck driver and has only 1 crash on his record. Bruce has worked for Skinner Transfer in Reedsburg for the last 23 years. He has made an impression with his customer service skills and his quiet and unassuming demeanor. He works great with maintenance and operations. Bruce and his wife, Linda, live in LaValle.

Twelve Drivers of the Month are selected each calendar year from members of the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association. From these drivers is selected the WMCA Driver of the Year. These drivers will be honored at the Annual Safety Awards Banquet February 18, 2012 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI.

WMCA TRUCK EXPO AND ANNUAL MEETING

OCT 26 -27, 2011 - ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER, MADISON

DETAILS AT www.witruck.org

VANDENBERG NAMED TO TRANSPORTATION FINANCE COMMISSION

Tom Vandenberg of Schneider National has been named as a member of new Transportation Finance and Policy Commission that was created by the Legislature in the 2011-13 budget. The Commission will examine transportation needs and likely revenues over the next 10 years and make recommendations on funding or other ways to reduce the state's reliance on bonding for transportation investment.

In addition to Vandenberg, other Commission members, appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders, include: Tripp Ahern, Fond du Lac; Former WI DOT Secretary Tom Carlsen; Barb Fleisner, Executive Director of CENTERGY; Former Monona Mayor Robb Kahl; TDA Executive Director Craig Thompson; Bob Cook, HNTB Corp.; Former Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz; Marty Hanson, Ayres Associates; Former Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian

DOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb is a non-voting member of the commission, which is to submit its report by March 1, 2013.

HOUSE LEADERS ENCOURAGE DOT DROP HOS CHANGES

The top Republican leaders of the House have joined the chorus calling on the Department of Transportation to withdraw the pending hours of service rewrite and stick with the current rule.

House Speaker John Boehner, Ohio, and Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Va., wrote President Obama, saying that by dropping the rewrite he can avoid adding a \$1 billion regulatory burden. "The Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy has noted that the DOT's proposed changes to the hours of service rules are 'not supported by existing safety and health data,'" they said.

This follows a similar but somewhat stronger letter posted recently by Rep. John Mica, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and three of his Republican colleagues on the committee.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has been working on revisions to the rule for two years and is scheduled to post its final version Oct. 28. Whether it will meet that deadline remains to be seen: the final rule was slated to be sent to the White House Office of Management and Budget Aug. 30, but it still is being reviewed in the Secretary's office at the Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL FREIGHT GROUP SEEKING INPUT

The National Center for Freight (CFIRE) out of UW-Madison is working on a project looking at the use of Long Combination Vehicles and potential policy changes for expanding their use. As part of the project, they are distributing a survey to better understand the public's perception of these longer trucks. If you are interested, the link to the survey is listed below and only takes a couple of minutes to complete.

https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eznt2tQuxMh4VMM

WMCA DIAMOND CLUB MEMBERS



ACS PREPASS, PHOENIX

BADGER UTILITY, MADISON

HNI RISK SERVICES, NEW BERLIN

JJ KELLER & ASSOCIATES, NEENAH

M3 INSURANCE SOLUTIONS, INC, MADISON

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